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LETTER DATED 1 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 31 July 1999 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the statements made to the press on 27 July 1999 by the Turkish Chief of Staff, in which he confirmed that the Turkish armed forces had attacked Iraq. The Minister calls upon the United Nations to assume its responsibilities and halt the threats and acts of aggression to which Iraq is being exposed.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 31 July 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to draw your attention to the statement made by the Turkish Chief of Staff, General Hüseyin Kivrikoğlu, which was reported by the French news agency Agence France Presse and published in two Turkish newspapers in Ankara on Tuesday, 27 July 1999. The statement denies claims made by Tehran to the effect that Turkish aircraft bombarded Iranian territory, and affirms that Turkish F-16 fighter aircraft attacked Kurdish rebel camps in the north of Iraq, and that the area attacked is, beyond doubt, located in Iraqi rather than Iranian territory.

This statement is a clear admission on the part of the Chief of Staff that the Turkish armed forces have been carrying out a series of flagrant violations in the north of Iraq, disregarding all the international laws and norms that govern the relations between States and blatantly violating the principle of good-neighbourliness.

While severely condemning the operations carried out by the Turkish armed forces in Iraqi territory, which threaten the peace of the population and violate the sovereignty of Iraqi territory and airspace, the Government of Iraq demands that the Turkish Government refrain from any repetition of these unlawful practices, and categorically rejects the pretexts put forward by Turkey to justify its aggression against Iraq.

I hope that the United Nations will assume its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations, and will halt the threats and acts of aggression to which Iraq is being exposed. I request that you call upon the Government of Turkey to observe the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, and that you make every effort to bring about a complete halt to its military operations and attacks against Iraq.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq